

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

April 23, 1993

ACL NO. 93-28

FSD NO. 93-11

Reason for this Transmittal

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☒ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
ALL FAMILY SUPPORT ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: FUNDING IV-A SYSTEM CHANGES DUE TO THE STATEWIDE
AUTOMATED CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM (SACSS)

REFERENCE: ACL No. 92-80 dated September 8, 1992
FSD Letter No. 92-24 dated September 8, 1992
FSA-AT-89-17 dated May 18, 1989
OCSE-AT-89-09 dated May 18, 1989
CFR 45 Parts 205.55, 235.70, 304.20, 305.100

The State is embarking on the statewide automation of Welfare (IV-A) and Child Support (IV-D). Both programs need to exchange data to meet each program's goals and objectives. In order to meet this need, it is important that an effective and efficient interface between IV-A and IV-D be developed. The Statewide Automated Child Support System (SACSS) will be implemented first because of the federally mandated due date of October 1, 1995, for certification. The Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) is a larger effort and will not be fully implemented until SACSS is complete.

Many counties have requested information on funding the modifications to a current automated IV-A system required by SACSS to accommodate the IV-A/IV-D interface. Federal policy prohibits the use of SACSS project funds for this purpose. According to the Family Support Administration, federal regulations require each program to provide information to the other and, as stated in Federal Action Transmittal (FSA-AT-89-17) dated May 18, 1989, funds will be available for IV-A systems at the IV-A federal sharing rate and IV-D systems at their IV-D sharing rate. Counties should continue following the current procedures to claim these costs. Until SAWS is implemented, SACSS expects to interface with each county's current system. At this time, we don't anticipate that major changes to current IV-A systems will be needed to send and receive data. SACSS will accept and send electronic or paper transmittals. There will be only one standard interface for both paper and electronic transmittals.

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Work has begun on the SACSS general system design. CDSS Welfare Program Division and Information Technology Division SAWS staff will be involved in the design effort for the interface. As the data elements to be exchanged are identified, we will let you know what they are. However, at this point, we do not anticipate there will be new data elements required beyond those currently exchanged with two possible exceptions:

1. As previously mentioned in ACL No. 92-80, if IV-A has been doing distribution, IV-D will assume the distribution responsibility and will notify IV-A to issue disregard warrants.
2. For efficiency, a county's IV-A and IV-D programs may opt to increase the number of elements exchanged.

It is important to note that, should the State fail to implement SACSS by the mandated date, the Federal Government will require a reduction in federal IV-A funds as stated in CFR 45 Section 305.100. For this reason and because data exchange is required for each program to meet its goals, it is important that the IV-A and IV-D agencies and CDSS continue to work together to benefit welfare and child support in their conversion to SACSS and SAWS. I am committed to supporting your joint efforts.

We hope this letter answers your questions regarding the funding of IV-A system changes due to SACSS. If you have any additional questions, please contact Elaine Moody, Child Support Statewide Automation Bureau, at (916) 263-2180.

Sincerely,



ELOISE ANDERSON
Director

c: CWDA
CFSC